

# *Documents on Diplomacy: The Source*

## *"This Act of Drama is Over"*

*A Letter from Charles Francis Adams to Charles Francis Adams Jr.*

*London, March 25, 1865*

One thing seems for the present to be settled. That is, that no hope is left for any aid to the rebel cause. England will initiate nothing to help them in their critical moment. So far as any risk of an aggressive policy is concerned, it is over. Mr. Seward may now rely upon it, that if troubles supervene, it must happen very much by his own act. He has a right to exult in the success of his policy in carrying the country in its hour of peril clear of the hazards of foreign complications. The voluminous intrigues of the rebel emissaries have been completely baffled, their sanguine anticipations utterly disappointed. They have spent floods of money in directing the press, in securing aid from adventurers of all sorts, and in enlisting the services of ship and cannon builders with all their immense and powerful following, and it has been all in vain. So far as any efforts of theirs are concerned, we might enter Richmond tomorrow. This act of the drama is over. . . .

### *Source*

Ford, Worthington Chauncey, ed. *A Cycle of Adams Letters, 1861-1865*, in two volumes. [Boston: 1920]